

AGENDA



CABINET

MONDAY, 9 JANUARY 2012

11.00 AM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, ST PETERS HILL,
GRANTHAM

Beverly Agass, Chief Executive

MEMBERS: Councillor Mrs. Linda Neal (Leader/Portfolio: Strategic Partnerships), Councillor Paul Carpenter (Deputy Leader & Portfolio: Engagement & Corporate Services), Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright (Portfolio: Economic Development), Councillor John Smith (Portfolio: Healthy Environment), Councillor Mike Taylor (Portfolio: Resources) and Councillor Terl Bryant (Portfolio: Housing)

Committee Support Officer: Lucy Bonshor 01476 40 61 20
e-mail: l.bonshor@southkesteven.gov.uk

Members of the public are entitled to attend the meeting of the Cabinet at which key decisions will be taken on the issues listed on the following pages. Key decisions are marked *.

1. APOLOGIES

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2011.

(Enclosure)

- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)**
- 4. *GREYFRIARS AND WHARF PLACE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS (SPDS)**
Report number PLA920 of the Economic Development Portfolio Holder.
(Enclosure)
- 5. APPROVAL OF BUDGET REQUIREMENT FOR 2012/13 FOR CONSULTATION**
Report number HOF184 of the Resources Portfolio Holder. **(Enclosure)**
- 6. ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11**
Report number PCC10 of the Engagement and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder.
(Enclosure)
- 7. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET BY THE COUNCIL, SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OR THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS**
- 8. ITEMS RAISED BY CABINET MEMBERS INCLUDING REPORTS ON KEY AND NON KEY DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS.**
- 9. REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS WITHIN THE FORWARD PLAN (IF ANY)**
- 10. REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED FROM NON CABINET MEMBERS**
- 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN, BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, DECIDES IS URGENT**

CO34. *COUNCIL TAX BASE 2012/13

Decision:

To approve the recording of the amounts shown below as the council tax bases for 2012/13, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended).

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Band D Equival ents</u>
	No.
Grantham	11274.8
Stamford	7131.8
Bourne	5005.5
Allington	359.0
Ancaster	582.4
Aslackby & Laughton	113.7
Barholm & Stow	34.2
Barkston & Syston	263.6
Barrowby	726.3
Baston	543.4
Belton & Manthorpe	205.0
Billingborough	485.1
Bitchfield & Bassingthorpe	58.1
Boothby Pagnell	64.2
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe	135.9
Ropsley, Humby, Braceby & Sapperton	341.3
Burton Coggles	38.8
Careby, Aunby & Holywell	68.6
Carby	212.6
Carlton Scroop & Normanton	129.1
Castle Bytham	301.7
Caythorpe	539.8
Claypole	505.7
Colsterworth, Gunby & Stainby & N. Witham	737.9
Corby Glen	399.7
Counthorpe & Creeton	34.3
Deeping St James	2464.9
Denton	121.4
Dowsby	62.4
Dunsby	46.4
Stoke Rochford & Easton	86.6
Edenham	113.0

Fenton	56.0
Folkingham	299.4
Foston	218.1
Fulbeck	220.4
Greatford	126.1
Great Gonerby	809.3
Great Ponton	130.1
Haconby	194.3
Harlaxton	338.1
Heydour	155.5
Honington	71.6
Horbling	167.1
Hougham	79.5
Hough on the Hill	167.3
Ingoldsby	115.8
Irnham	103.7
Kirkby Underwood	84.1
Langtoft	752.8
Lenton, Keisby & Osgodby	66.8
Little Bytham	112.1
Little Ponton & Stroxton	70.9
Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without	1743.3
Long Bennington	899.3
Market Deeping	2058.5
Marston	151.1
Morton	831.1
Old Somerby	92.3
Pickworth	76.3
Pointon & Sempringham	199.7
Rippingale	346.8
Sedgebrook	144.9
Skillington	137.5
South Witham	489.5
Stubton	75.2
Swayfield	146.7
Swinstead	89.9
Tallington	200.8
Thurlby	816.9
Toft, Lound & Manthorpe	137.9
Uffington	316.4
Welby	77.5
Westborough & Dry Doddington	152.4
West Deeping	125.0
Witham on the Hill	99.9
Woolsthorpe	152.0

Considerations/reasons for decision:

- (1) Report number HOF175 by the Head of Finance explaining the legislative provisions that enable a local authority to make its own arrangements for adopting the council tax base;
- (2) The council tax base is used to calculate how much each property will be charged to cover the net costs of the district council and the precepting authorities. The total net expenditure is divided by the council tax base to give the amount paid by individual households.
- (3) Comments made by Members at the meeting.

Other options considered

None.

CO35. *FEES & CHARGES REVIEW

Decision:

To approve the proposed set of fees and charges as attached to report HOF178 for appropriate consultation before their inclusion into the proposed budget for 2012/13.

Considerations/reasons for decision:

- (1) Recommendations from the Resources PDG working group on a review of fees and charges and the parallel work undertaken by Deloitte on an income review benchmarking study which compared fees and charges across a number of east midlands councils.
- (2) Fees & charges are compiled as part of the budget setting process.
- (3) Further work being undertaken by both the Resources PDG and the Communities PDG.
- (4) Comments made by Members at the meeting.
- (5) Clarity of the inflation factor used (RPI).
- (6) Comments made by the Head of Finance at the meeting.

Other options considered:

N/A

CO36. LOCAL AUTHORITY MORTGAGE SCHEME

Decision:

1. **Cabinet recommend to Council participation in the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (LAMS), initially in partnership with a recognised national provider for £1m; and**
2. **Cabinet recommend to Council approval of plans to extend the scheme across other lenders as they enter the scheme, or with a recognised national provider, up to a total value of £5m subject a full analysis of impact against priorities of the first £1m;**
3. **That the Resources PDG undertake initial development of a local policy for the scheme eligibility for Council approval; and**
4. **The Strategic Director (corporate services) be given delegated authority to investigate and where required execute the required legal documentation in order to satisfy scheme participants.**

Considerations/reasons for decision:

- (1) Report SD001 from the Strategic Director Corporate Focus.
- (2) Sector Treasury Management services have developed a national scheme, initially in conjunction with a recognised national provider, to allow councils to provide support to first time buyers.
- (3) The Housing Act 1985 (as amended) provides the statutory framework for the scheme. The Act allows Local Authorities to “advance money to a person for the purpose of acquiring a house” (section 435 of the act). Section 442 of the act allows a local authority to grant an indemnity to a lender to enable the lender to give the potential buyer a mortgage.
- (4) Comments made by Members at the meeting concerning the PR of the scheme. It was stressed that the public should not have any misconceptions about the mortgage scheme; the Council were NOT offering mortgages.

Other options considered:

To be considered further in policy development

CO37. *SKIN PIERCING BYELAWS

Decision:

Cabinet recommends to Council the proposed draft byelaw as appended to report ENV557 for:

- (1) **Adoption by resolution sections 14 to 17 of Part VIII of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by the Local Government Act 2003) in their entirety to come into force at a date to be set within the administrative area of SKDC for the proper regulation of persons carrying out the practices of acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis.**

- (2) **Authorising the making of byelaws regulating the practice of acupuncture under Section 14(7) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as soon as Section 14 of that Act is adopted as in Point 1.1 above within the administrative area of SKDC Authorise the making of byelaws regulating the practices of tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis under Section 15 (7) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as soon as Section 15 of that Act is adopted as in Point 1.1 above within the administrative area of SKDC the Head of Environmental Services be authorized to make the consolidated byelaw attached at Appendix A made under the provisions of Sections 14 (7) and 15(7) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended, and take all necessary steps to secure their confirmation with the Secretary of State and carry them into effect.**
- (3) **The following to be incorporated in the registration /application process:**
- **Details of how records will be kept and what they will include.**
 - **Parents/carers/guardians should be present at procedures performed on those under 18 years.**

Considerations/reasons for decision:

- (1) Report ENV557 by the Healthy Environment Portfolio Holder.
- (2) Recommendations made by the Communities PDG at their meeting on 10th November 2011.
- (3) To bring fully into force the regulatory framework of Part VIII of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by the Local Government Act 2003) within the South Kesteven District administrative area, including the provision of the making of byelaws for the proper regulation of businesses involved in the five skin piercing activities.
- (4) Comments made by Members at the meeting.

Other options considered:

Consideration has been given to continuing without adoption of the amendments made under the Local Government Act 2003 leaving the skin piercing activities of body piercing and semi-permanent make-up an unregulated activity in SKDC. This would leave members of the public in SKDC at risk of blood-borne infection from these unregulated activities possibly resulting in increased health costs and decreased quality of living.

CO38. REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED FROM NON CABINET MEMBERS

Councillor Channell had notified the Leader in writing of her wish to speak to the Cabinet.

Councillor Channell referred to the documentation which she had circulated to all Members about a councillor divisional fund at the end of the last Council meeting. Members had been canvassed for their views on the subject and 11 responses had been received, six for the proposal, two against and three alright with the proposal subject to alterations. She appreciated that such an idea would require proper supervision.

Councillor Mrs Neal indicated that the proposal had to be taken into the budget setting process and research was on going. A response would not be known however, until the budget setting process had been concluded.

DATE DECISIONS EFFECTIVE:

Decisions CO34 and CO35 as made on 5th December 2011 can be implemented on 14th December unless subject to call-in by the Scrutiny Committee Chairman of any five members of the Council from any political groups.

Decisions CO36 and CO37 stand referred to Council.

**South Kesteven District Council, Council Offices, St. Peter's Hill, Grantham,
Lincolnshire NG31 6PZ**

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REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Economic Development Portfolio Holder

REPORT NO: PLA 920

DATE: 9th January 2012

TITLE:	Greyfriars and Wharf Place Development Briefs: Adoption as Supplementary Planning Documents	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Key Decision	
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Cllr Frances Cartwright Economic Development Portfolio Holder	
CONTACT OFFICER:	Karen Sinclair, Planning Policy & Partnerships Service Manager 01476 406438 k.sinclair@southkesteven.gov.uk	
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:	Carried out and Referred to in paragraph (7) below	Full impact assessment Required:
Equality and Diversity	No	
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via the Your Council and Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Cabinet Report PLA866 dated 7 th February 2011 Cabinet Report PLA893 dated 4 th July 2011 Cabinet Report PLA898 dated 1 st August 2011 Cabinet Report PLA901 dated 1 st August 2011	

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 That:

- a) Cabinet notes the comments received in response to the public consultation on the Greyfriars and Wharf Place draft Development Briefs
- b) The proposed changes to the Greyfriars and Wharf Place Development Briefs set out in Appendix 1 to the report are approved
- c) The Greyfriars and Wharf Place Development Briefs, as amended in accordance with recommendation b) above, are adopted as Supplementary Planning Documents

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT/DECISION REQUIRED

- 2.1 To enable the Cabinet to consider the issues raised in the representations made during the public consultation on the Greyfriars and Wharf Place draft Development Briefs, to consider proposed changes and for the Development Briefs to be adopted as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).
- 2.2 The adoption of the Greyfriars and Wharf Place Development Briefs would support the Grow the Economy, Leisure, Arts and Culture and Support Good Housing for All priority themes.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The draft Development Briefs were approved for the purposes of public consultation by the Cabinet on the 1st August 2011 (Report PLA 901).
- 3.2 The Development Briefs set out the key planning and development principles for mixed use development of the sites. In the case of Greyfriars, a retail and leisure led mixed use development is proposed to create a distinct retail destination whilst there is a more retail led focus for the Wharf Place site so as to enhance the primary shopping area and upgrade the retail circuit.
- 3.3 The Development Briefs are intended to guide development of the sites as follows:
 - To set overall design principles and parameters
 - To provide a guide to the overall development parameters of the site including the preferred mix and scale of development
 - Ensure a viable form of development
 - To provide quality standards for the sites
 - To achieve the comprehensive redevelopment of the sites
 - To give clarity to developers and investors regarding the Council's requirements for the site
 - Provide an indicative approach to the delivery and phasing of development
- 3.3 Public consultation on the draft Development Briefs took place between the 26th August and 7th October 2011. Widespread consultation was carried out with affected landowners/occupiers of property, neighbouring properties (both residential and business) and relevant national, regional and local organisations. The Development Briefs were also made available at the District Council offices and Grantham library, on the website and publication was advertised by way of a statutory notice published in the Grantham Journal and the issuing of a press release.
- 3.4 At the end of the consultation period, a total of 13 representations were received from individuals, landowners and businesses and organisations. Some of the responses were general comments common to both Development Briefs whilst others were more specific in respect of a particular aspect of one of the Briefs. The appendix attached to this report summarises the representations received together with a response and, where appropriate, recommended changes to the Briefs.

- 3.5 In addition there will also be a need to update the text of the Briefs to reflect changes since they were prepared i.e. progress on preparing the Grantham Area Action Plan. These minor changes are also set out in the report appendix.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Do not adopt as SPDs - the alternative would be to rely on a prospective developer to submit a planning application and hopefully engage in pre application and post application negotiations. The preparation of a brief is more positive in that it provides a planning framework to promote interest in the site and guide and encourage the co-ordinated redevelopment of the site in accordance with the Council's policies. It also offers some degree of certainty that a planning application would be more likely to obtain approval subject to detail.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There will be some resource implications arising from the adoption process primarily costs associated with the publication of a statutory notice and printing of the documents, although this will be kept to a minimum through the provision of electronic as opposed to hard copy versions. Costs can, therefore, be accommodated within this financial year's Planning Policy budget.

6. RISK AND MITIGATION

- 6.1 None identified.

7. ISSUES ARISING FROM EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 When adopted as SPD, the Development Briefs will 'hang off' policies contained in the Core Strategy and Grantham Area Action Plan (when adopted), which have been the subject to equality impact assessment.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None arising out of this report.

9. COMMENTS OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 9.1 It is confirmed that the costs associated with the adoption of these development briefs can be met from within existing budgets.

10. COMMENTS OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 10.1 The purpose of the report is to enable Cabinet is to consider the results of the consultation, take into account relevant comments made as a result of the consultation and adopt the SPD subject to any accepted proposals made as a result of the consultation.

11. APPENDICES:

Appendix A Responses to consultation and proposed changes

Appendix A: Representations Received to Greyfriars and Wharf Place Draft Development Brief Consultation

Respondent Name	Reference Number	Section	Representation Summary	Officer Response	Proposed Changes
BOTH DEVELOPMENT BRIEFS					
Environment Agency			Support proposals	Support noted.	No changes required.
Anglian Water			There should be no new surface water connections to the foul or combined system. Recommend the opportunity for surface water separation. In accordance with PPS25, the proposals should secure sustainable surface water disposal applying the Flood Risk Management Hierarchy to ensure that SUDS are considered as the preferred option for surface water disposal.	Chapter 6 of both briefs require SUDS. Detailed guidance on this matter is set out in PPS25, there is no need to repeat it.	No changes required.
English Heritage			No recognition of the archaeological potential of each site.	Text added to briefs that draws attention to the archaeological potential of both sites	In Historic Character section on page 13 and Historic Assets section on page 34 add reference to archaeological potential.
			Greater attention should be given to the setting of CA's. Development outside of the CA boundary (but which forms part of the setting of the CA) needs to protect and enhance the character of the CA	The briefs cover this specific point/principle very clearly already.	No changes required.
			Change requirement for a PPS5 statement to 'Heritage Statement'	Documents amended to account for this	Amend reference in Planning Application Requirements section on page 49
			Make reference to the Grantham CA appraisal and show how it has influenced the proposals	Documents have been amended to include greater reference to the Grantham Conservation Area, and to require due regard to be had to this in the preparation of planning application proposals	In Historic Character section on page 13 and Planning Policy chapter add reference to Grantham Conservation Area Appraisal
CPRE			Expressed support		Support noted.

Appendix A: Representations Received to Greyfriars and Wharf Place Draft Development Brief Consultation

Respondent Name	Reference Number	Section	Representation Summary	Officer Response	Proposed Changes
Ancer Spa (on behalf of Buckminster Estates and Grantham Estates)			Very supportive of the general principles. Noted that it is a practical working document that incorporates a appropriate flexibility. However a number of detailed points raised.	–	Support noted.
Local resident (no.1)			Supports the proposals	–	Support noted.
			Pedestrian movement around the town centre needs to be improved	The brief supports this. Development should complement the Grantham Movement Study proposals.	No changes required.
			Must ensure adequate car parking in the town centre	Both of the planning briefs require car parking to be provided. Detailed proposals should complement the Grantham Movement Study.	No changes required.
Local Resident (no.4)			Remove reference to recession (as technically the UK has not been in recession for 18 months)	Agree text should be amended to reflect this.	Amend text in Development Viability section on page 48
			More detailed delivery strategy needed. How will Growth Point and GAF funds be used. Identify other funding sources to support development. Alternative delivery vehicles	The delivery strategy sets a framework for a landowner/developer-led strategy to be taken forward (with appropriate support from the Council). The brief must incorporate appropriate flexibility and it would be inappropriate/unecessary to include more detailed requirements at this stage	No changes required.
			SPDs should be supported by initial high-level appraisals		No changes required.
Grantham Civic Society			Supports the proposals but concerned about viability	The brief recognises the viability issues associated with development	No changes required.

Appendix A: Representations Received to Greyfriars and Wharf Place Draft Development Brief Consultation

Respondent Name	Reference Number	Section	Representation Summary	Officer Response	Proposed Changes
BNP Paribas (on behalf of royal Mail Estates)			Committed to retaining an operation in Grantham town centre however would consider relocating to make way for the proposed development if a suitable alternative location could be identified both from a cost and operational point of view.	Noted.	No changes required.
-	-	-	-	Update text to refer to latest stage of Area Action Plan preparation.	In Policy section update reference to Grantham Area Action Plan Submission version
WHARF PLACE DEVELOPMENT BRIEF					
English Heritage			Support the principle of redevelopment	-	Support noted.
			The historic context section should make reference to the Maltings and the Baptist church as being heritage buildings	These buildings are already referred to but additional references have been introduced	In Historic Character section on page 13 add reference to Maltings
			Landmark building on PO site should not be a tall building	None. While we recognise the heritage sensitivities with a taller building on this land, in urban design terms it is suitable. Detailed proposals (at the planning application stage) will need to justify scale/form having regard to these conflicting considerations. It is appropriate for the brief to remain flexible at this stage to enable the best possible solution to be realised in due course. This is linked to Policy WP 1 in GAAP which emphasises that building should be high design.	No changes required.
			Regrettable that the SPD is not ambitious is proposing the removal of the shopping centre and re-provision of the existing street network.	Evidence suggests that this would not have a reasonable prospect of being delivered in the current plan period.	No changes required.

Appendix A: Representations Received to Greyfriars and Wharf Place Draft Development Brief Consultation

Respondent Name	Reference Number	Section	Representation Summary	Officer Response	Proposed Changes
			Church has the potential to form a key part of the public square.	The plans allow for this exact scenario.	No changes required.
			Ensure compatible with the Grantham Townscape Character Appraisal	The key principles associated with the framework plans are broadly consistent with the illustrative plans included within the TCA.	No changes required.
Grantham Baptist Church			Surprised to see that the church is identified as a 'heritage asset', as it is an old not particularly attractive building. Supports the demolition and redevelopment of the church	We recognise this comment (and note that the building is not listed), nonetheless the Grantham TCA identifies the building as making a positive contribution to the town centre. Accordingly, the brief supports its retention.	No changes required.
Local resident (no.1)			Lanes/alleys require enhancement	The brief supports this.	No changes required.
Local resident (no.2)			Adequate road and level pavement access to the sheltered housing units on Grey Friars should be maintained during the construction and operation phase of the development	This matter is too detailed to be a specific requirement for the planning brief. Nonetheless the brief does not prevent this being achieved and is a matter for consideration at the planning applications stage	No changes required.
Local resident (no.3)			The Greyfriars site should be used for employment uses not retail.	The Council has to balance development needs for different uses with land availability.	No changes required.
Grantham Labour Club			The Greyfriars site should be used for employment uses not retail.	The emerging LDF sets out plans to accommodate significant employment development on other sites (including Station Approach) - this site is considered most appropriate for retail (and other town centre uses) on account of its proximity to the primary shopping area.	No changes required.
Grantham Civic Society			The pedestrian environment on Wharf Road needs to be improved	The brief supports this.	No changes required.

GREYFRIARS DEVELOPMENT BRIEF

Appendix A: Representations Received to Greyfriars and Wharf Place Draft Development Brief Consultation

Respondent Name	Reference Number	Section	Representation Summary	Officer Response	Proposed Changes
English Heritage			Support the principle of redevelopment	-	Support noted.
			The document does not make reference to non-designated heritage assets that make a positive contribution to the CA. The Townscape Character Appraisal makes reference to a number of positive contribution buildings in Figure 8.1.07, but these are not referred to in the SPD	Yes it does. It recognises that the non-listed buildings along Westgate make a positive contribution to the CA, and any removals should be dealt with very sensitively.	No changes required.
			The term 'comprehensive development' is too strong - perhaps temper with 'whilst preserving and enhancing the historic environment'	This site requires a comprehensive development solution (to overcome the risk of piecemeal development), and the brief makes it very clear that the existing historic buildings fronting Westgate are to be retained.	No changes required.
			Concerned about providing an access point at the site of 91-92 Westgate - this is identified in the Townscape Appraisal as having a positive contribution to the CA. Reference to a new route at this point should be removed. However, an 'arcade' style 'punch through' here would be acceptable.	This is exactly what is proposed in the brief.	No changes required.
			Welcomes the requirement for development to respond to the pattern of burgage plots etc and the suggestions of how buildings and spaces can achieve this. However, the diagrams provide little detail of the required building form and layout, suggesting large blocks rather than fine grain buildings.	The supporting text sets out possible solutions that could be taken on board at the planning application stage (preparation of scheme proposals)	No changes required.
			Need to ensure consistency between the TCA and the brief in respect to the site	The framework plans are very similar in principle to the proposals set out on page 78 of the TCA.	No changes required.
			Lost opportunity to extend the extent of the SPD to cover a larger area	Not a relevant comment. The extent of the SPD area has been set for some time. Too late to extend this.	No changes required.

Appendix A: Representations Received to Greyfriars and Wharf Place Draft Development Brief Consultation

Respondent Name	Reference Number	Section	Representation Summary	Officer Response	Proposed Changes
Ancer Spa (on behalf of Buckminster Estates and Grantham Estates)			The aspiration to retain the character of burgage plots contradicts with the recognition that the site should accommodate larger format development and improve pedestrian connectivity into the site. Suggests that the brief should either dilute the burgage plot referecne or provide worked up example of how this can be achieved.	The brief needs to stike an appropriate balance between heritage/conservation considerations and development reality. It is important that the referecne to burgage plots remains. Potential solutions are provided in the text - at the detailed design stage applicants should seek to achieve these objectives as best as possible.	No changes required.
			There should be pedestrian links between St Augustins Retail Park and the site - this should be a firmer requirement in the brief.	Briefs amended as per comment	Amend Urban Structure (page 27) and Access and Movement plan (page 45) to include link with St Augustin Retail Park
			The urban design plan on page 37 shows 7 new pedestrian links into the site. This should be a less specific requirement as subject to land acquisition etc.	These links are existing. The briefs support the retention and enhancement of these as far as it practicable (noting that some are under private ownership - although publicly accesible)	No changes required.
			The brief should acknowledge that residential uses could make-up a reasonable portion of the western part of the site	The framework plans and text support residential development on the western part of the site - some minor text changes have been introduced to make this more clear.	In Land Use Objective table on page 30 amend text to clarify residential and office/community/cultural uses are acceptable on western part of site

Appendix A: Representations Received to Greyfriars and Wharf Place Draft Development Brief Consultation

Respondent Name	Reference Number	Section	Representation Summary	Officer Response	Proposed Changes
			Undercroft/decked car parking is expensive. Some flexibility in car parking format should be introduced.	Significant areas of surface car parking is unlikely to be acceptable in townscape terms (although a small amount could be appropriate subject to appropriate design). The intention of the brief is to establish an ambitious development framework where undercroft/basement parking is preferred - alternative solutions should be justified at the planning application stage	No changes required.
			SKDC must take a lead in land assembly, to include the establishment of a Landowners Working Group	The delivery section makes clear that the Council is willing to use its powers to assist in land assembly.	In Land Assembly section on page 48 amend text to clarify role of Council
Local resident (no.1)			Public realm improvements required along Wharf Road	The brief supports this.	No changes required.
			Concerned about impact on the vitality of the High Street	The proposed development may shift the retail focus of the town centre, however it should allow the centre (as a whole) to function more effectively, efficiently, and competitively by driving a more effective retail circuit and allowing for new forms of retail which should compensate for any shift in the retail focus.	No changes required.

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: RESOURCES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

REPORT NO: HOF184

DATE: 9 January 2012

TITLE:	BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2012/13	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	KEY DECISION	
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Cllr Mike Taylor Resources and Assets Portfolio Holder	
CONTACT OFFICER:	Daren Turner – Strategic Director Corporate Focus 01476 406301 d.turner@southkesteven.gov.uk Richard Wyles – Head of Finance Tel: 01476 406210 Email: r.wyles@southkesteven.gov.uk	
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:	Carried out and Referred to in paragraph (7) below:	Full impact assessment Required: None
Equality and Diversity		
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via the Your Council and Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended the Cabinet:

General Fund

- 1.1 Notes the provisional settlement for 2012/13.
- 1.2 Agrees a provisional target General Fund Budget Requirement of £13.879m for 2012/13 (inclusive of Special Expenses).

- 1.3 Agrees to review the target at recommendation 2 above, at the Cabinet meeting in February, in light of the outcome of consultation and other updated information.
- 1.4 Agrees to consider the option to freeze the Council tax for 2012/13 and, following the outcome of consultation (and other related information), recommend a Council tax level at its February 2012 meeting.

Housing Revenue Account

- 1.5 Approves an indicative rent increase for consultation purposes with the Tenant consultation forums on options for rent increases. This is an average increase for SKDC tenants of 7.65%.
- 1.6 Agrees to review the proposed rent increase at recommendation 1.5 above, at the February Cabinet Meeting, in light of consultation, and other related information.

Capital Programme

- 1.7 Agrees to receive detailed reports setting out recommendations for the Capital Programme for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account, at the February Cabinet meeting.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to comment upon:

- a. The updated Local Government Finance Settlement for 2012/13.
- b. The budget requirement
- c. Use of reserves.
- d. Housing rent proposals 2012/13

This report sets out the settlement details and provides details for Cabinet to undertake consultation on the budget requirement for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account for 2012/13. Further work is ongoing to provide the detailed budget information which will be submitted to Cabinet in February and Council in March 2012.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

3.1 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2012/13 and estimates for 2013/14, 2014/15

On 13 December 2010, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (CLG) made his statement to Parliament concerning the provisional local government finance settlements for 2011/12 and 2012/13. The figures announced are based on the Formula Grant distribution consultation and the spending review cash limits for local government.

Confirmation of the provisional settlement for 2012/13 was issued by CLG on the 8th December 2011 and has been confirmed as £7.526M including £157K in respect of the Council Tax Freeze grant agreed in 2011/12 which runs for a 4 year period (the grant is calculated as revenue support grant £143K and redistributed business rates £7.383M).

The government are also proposing to provide a transition grant of £20m in 2012/13, to ensure that no authority in receipt of formula grant faces a reduction of more than 8.8% in 'revenue spending power' in 2012/13. This encompasses:

- a. Council tax requirement
- b. Formula Grant
- c. Specific grants within the aggregate External finance

The government has made it clear that the transition grant will end in 2013/14.

3.1.1 South Kesteven settlement

The provisional settlement for 2012/13 has remained unchanged from the announcement made last year and incorporating the Council Tax Freeze grant of £157k (from 2011/12) which equates to £7.526m for 2012/13.

The table below details the specific grant allocation for the Council as part of the 2 year settlement and also includes estimates for the following 2 year period:

TABLE 1.

	2011/12 £000	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000
Formula Grant (excl CT Freeze)	8,350	7,369 (net of CT freeze grant)	7,366*	7,018*
Year on year reduction		0.981m	0.003m	0.348m

*the grant figures for these years have not yet been announced by the Government and the figures provided above are based on initial projections.

The adjusted grant in 2010/11 (excluding concessionary fares) was £9.619m and by the end of the confirmed settlement in 2012/13 this would have reduced by £2.250m / 23.39%. This represents a significant reduction in central government grant support and the Council has responded positively to the financial squeeze through a wide range of cost reduction and efficiency programmes. These include sharing senior officer posts, re-negotiating third party contracts, implementing a transformation efficiency programme and responding to the customer consultation findings undertaken in summer 2010. This programme will continue into 2012/13 in order to prepare the Authority for potential further grant reductions from 2013/14.

The position after 2012/13 is even more complex due to the Governments proposal regarding Business Rate retention and Localisation of Council tax support (benefits) changes.

3.1.2 Business Rate Retention Proposals

Currently, all business rates (also known as non-domestic rates or NDR) income collected by billing authorities is 'pooled' nationally, with this income being redistributed to individual authorities through the Formula Grant system. The government's stated policy objective is to enable councils to retain business rates income locally, providing a financial incentive for councils to undertake economic development activities and consequently increase the level of business rates collected in their local area.

Local authorities will still need to operate within the existing NDR system. They will not have control over how the level of tax is determined for ratepayers i.e. the rateable value of properties or the national multiplier (the rate of tax).

Under the scheme, those authorities that see increases in their business rates tax base and associated revenues should gain from the scheme, whilst those with declining business rates will lose. The magnitude of these gains and losses will be determined by which options are eventually chosen from those set out in the consultation and technical papers.

The potential impact of this has been modelled and the estimated figures at this time have been included in table 1 above and show a further reduction in grant of £0.351m over the next 2 years. Therefore, since 2010/11 the Council could see a reduction in cash terms of over £2.6m.

3.1.3 Localisation of Council Tax Support

As part of the spending review 2010, the Government announced it would localise support for council tax from 2013/14, reducing expenditure by 10%. This is a key element of both the localism agenda and the welfare reform bill. Principles of the scheme include:

- a. Local authorities to have a duty to run a scheme to provide support for council tax in their area
- b. For pensioners there should be no change in the current levels of awards
- c. Local authorities should also consider ensuring support for other vulnerable groups (not yet defined)
- d. Local schemes should support work incentives and in particular avoid disincentives to move into work.

Localisation of support for council tax will mean a significant change in the role of local authorities. Currently local authorities administer council tax benefit in accordance with national criteria set by DWP (Department of Work and Pensions). In the future local authorities will need to design schemes for working age claimants, taking into account available funding for preserving current levels of pensioner claimants.

The current expenditure is £7.5M so a 10% reduction would result in £750K being removed from the current benefit level. This reduction must be borne by all major precepting authorities. At present the approximate case load in total is 10,769 of which 5330 would qualify for the protection to pensioners. Therefore, the remaining claimants in the working age category (although there will be 'protected vulnerable' claimants which have not been defined) would bear the full impact of the benefit reduction or alternatively the Authority would need to 'top up' the benefit budget

to mitigate the impact. The reduction could result in the claimants facing a number of difficulties, including: fuel poverty, child poverty, homelessness and an increase in council tax arrears.

3.1.4 New Homes Bonus

The scheme provides for every new home built since October 2009 to receive match funding, equivalent to the national average for the council tax band on each additional property, with payments for six years. For the 12 month period to October 2010, the Council was awarded £650,623 NHB and expects to receive this amount again over the next 5 years: a total of £3.9m over the six years. On top of this, the Council should receive further NHB payments calculated on future year's housing growth i.e. new homes built between October 2010 and 2011 would attract NHB in addition to the original £650,623, which would become payable in April 2012. Detailed proposals with respect to NHB will be presented to members as part of the budget preparations.

3.1.5 Housing Benefit Administration Grant

This grant is a Department of Work and Pensions specific grant to help support the cost of housing benefit administration and the funding of anti-fraud measures. The allocation of housing benefit administrative subsidy has been announced and the Council will receive £735,459 in respect of administration subsidy (£768,068 in 2011/12) and an additional subsidy amount of £72,792 (£77,410 in 2011/12). The latter amount is in response to the economic downturn and the acknowledgement that there has been a significant caseload increase for local authorities. The total administration grant is £808,251 which represents a decrease of 4.4% compared to 2011/12.

3.1.6 Homelessness Grant

The award for 2012/13 is £106k which is the same as in 2011/12 and the government has confirmed they are continuing to 2014/15 with the provision of the Homelessness grant. However, they have not confirmed what the future funding levels will be. This specific grant is used to finance a range of homelessness prevention initiatives including a rent deposit scheme and domestic abuse support. Other current initiatives funded from the homelessness grant award is in respect of a court desk service at Grantham County Court and is available to anyone facing repossession of their home. The advice given ranges from debt advice and homelessness

prevention. This service is provided by South Kesteven Citizens Advice Bureau. Further work will be undertaken to determine the full utilisation of the grant and will be presented to Cabinet as part of the budget framework proposals.

4. General Fund Budget Requirement, Capping and Reserves

4.1 Draft budget requirement

The proposed draft budget requirement for 2012/13 is £13.879m which includes the 2011/12 Council Tax freeze grant of £157K. This grant will continue to be received until 2014/15 in order to mitigate the financial disadvantage of not applying a Council tax increase. The grant is calculated on an assumed increase of 2.5%.

A further one-off council tax freeze for 2012/13 has been proposed by the Government which if taken would result in the Council receiving an additional £159k in grant for 2012/13 only. The following 2 years would revert back to the original £157k as outlined above. The Council will consider this as part of its consultation process

4.1.1 Capping Proposals

The Government is introducing powers (Localism Act 2011, section 72) for residents that will enable excessive increases to be vetoed through a local referendum. For 2012/13 any local authorities increasing council tax by more than 3.5% must consult the public in a referendum. If an authority does not get local support for the increase then it would have to revert to a lower increase in bills. The lower increase level is outlined by local authorities as part of the referendum process and must be below the level set by Government. With the option of a further council tax freeze grant in 2012/13 (equivalent to a 2.5% increase) it is clear the government expects authorities to take up this option as the scope for generating further revenue is minimal. A further 1% for South Kesteven would equate to circa £60k.

Reserves and Balances held by the Council

When considering the Budget requirement, the Cabinet must also have regard to the level of balances held and the purpose for which they are held. The general fund revenue balances, as at 31st March 2011 were £6.035m (adjusted for IFRS accounting standards) and a working balance of £2.370m. The level of the working balance provides adequate cover for any unanticipated expenditure or loss

of income that may occur over the course of the financial year. The Council has a policy that the working balance of the General Fund is maintained at between 4% to 5% of gross turnover or between 10% to 15% of net expenditure. This is in line with good practice and ensures the Council can meet any exceptional unforeseen costs during the course of the financial year. However it is proposed that the policy, together with all reserve policies, are reviewed annually as part of accounts closedown process in order to ensure they are maintained at the appropriate levels to fund the Council's priorities and delivery plans.

Work is underway on the proposed utilisation of reserves and the report to Cabinet in February will provide recommendations on the use of reserves once the full impact of the revised estimates and proposed capital programme for both general fund and housing revenue account have been assessed and financially modelled.

Detailed analysis of their use in the current financial year is undertaken with projections for their proposed use during the next three years. Further details regarding this will be given at the February meeting.

5. Housing Revenue Account - Rent Setting for 2012/13

5.1 HRA Self Financing

Following the general election, the new Government reaffirmed the decision to replace HRA Subsidy with a new regime of self-financed housing authorities where all rent income will be retained by the authorities who, in return, will have to take on varying levels of historical housing debt. In February 2011 the government published *Implementing self-financing for council housing*, which set out the rationale, methodology and financial parameters for the introduction of HRA self-financing in England. Following enactment of the Localism Act on 15th November, self-financing for all authorities will commence on 1st April, 2012.

Self-financing will mean that in future authorities will keep all their rental income but with the proviso that collectively they will have to take on the national HRA debt, with a proportion of this debt allocated to each individual council. Each authority will have its existing level of debt readjusted, according to the valuation of its council housing stock. All things being equal, the higher the valuation the greater will be the amount of debt that will be allocated.

Valuations will be based on stock numbers as at 1 April 2011 and assumed levels of income and need for expenditure over 30 years. Stock numbers will be adjusted where appropriate to account for demolitions that take place during 2011/12 and those planned for future years.

Authorities are to be required to model a 30-year Business Plan using real, as opposed to subsidy, levels of income and expenditure in order to demonstrate the viability of their self-financed HRA's. The interest rate at which the authority will be able to borrow in March 2012 is, at present, unknown, and rates are currently very volatile, therefore a range of scenarios has been modelled using a selection of rates. Current estimates are between 4 and 5%. Such volatility represents a key risk to the business plan.

The valuation of the business plan has modelled the value of the Council housing stock at £136m. Deducting the Council's capital financing requirement figure of £14m has resulted in the Council debt settlement figure being calculated at £122m.

5.1.2 Housing Revenue Account – Rent Setting 2012/13

The main element of policy relating to the HRA for 2012/13 is, once again, the setting of rents. The Council's current policy is to keep in line with the Government's guidance on rent restructuring and guideline rent increases. The following is an analysis of the Government's proposals for 2012/13.

The draft Self-financing Determinations were published on 21st November, 2011, and they establish the valuations upon which the new system will be based, and the level of new borrowing will be derived. The determinations have been constructed using similar parameters to those used in relation to HRA Subsidy in earlier years. Existing policy is to establish the percentage local authority average guideline rent by applying RPI inflation at the previous September, plus 0.5% "real growth" and a convergence factor to reflect the number of years to rental convergence.

The September 2011 inflation figure was 5.6% and the draft determination is based upon convergence within four years, by 2015/16. This has produced a national average guideline rent increase of 7.8%. The uplift applied to the allowances is the GDP deflator, currently estimated at 2.5%. However, in recognition of the fact that the system was under-funded, the Government have increased the allowances in line with research which they had commissioned.

Guideline rent is a notional figure used in the HRA valuation calculations, whilst actual rent is that which is actually charged to the tenants. The actual rent is calculated on a property by property basis using the same parameters as the Government has used for guideline rent. This has produced an average increase for SKDC tenants of 7.65%. At the level of individual dwellings, the percentage increase will depend upon each property's proximity to its target, with increases varying between 6.10% and 9.92%. In cash terms, the average rent will be £71.08 with a minimum of £48.47 and a maximum of £101.67. Garage rents and service charges are normally increased in line with dwelling rents.

Overall, further analysis is being undertaken on the impact of the draft subsidy determination together with the impact of service budget proposals and this will be reported to Cabinet in February. At the same meeting a review will be undertaken of the proposed rent increase in light of consultation, together with proposals regarding garage rents and other service charges.

6. Capital Programme – 2012/13 and onwards

6.1 General Fund Capital programme

The General fund programme will continue broadly in line with the programme agreed by Council in March 2011. Some slippage has occurred and this will mean that £2.130m will be re profiled into the future. The detail of this and potential new capital schemes will be presented to cabinet in February 2012 and be finalised by Council in March. The programme will still operate within the existing cost envelope.

6.2 Housing investment programme (HIP)

Major re modelling has taken place as a result of the Council preparing for the new HRA financing regime. This is likely to result in some significant changes to the capital investment strategy, with respect to funding the HIP and there are likely to be consequential benefits to the HRA as a whole. In-year slippage of £200k will occur and this will be re profiled over the coming weeks. Further growth bids are also being considered in order to maintain the investment in the housing stock and these will be presented to members at the February meeting.

7. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

There are no alternative options necessary in respect of this report.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

This report details the budget requirement for 2011/12.

9. RISK AND MITIGATION (INCLUDING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND DATA QUALITY)

N/a

10. ISSUES ARISING FROM EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

N/a

11. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

N/a

12. COMMENTS OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

These comments are included in the report.

13. COMMENTS OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

The recommendations relate to proposals for the budget which forms part of the budgetary and policy framework. Members must consult with residents on the proposals contained within this report as required in accordance with statutory regulation and constitutional requirements. All the relevant provisions of the Localism Act 2011 have been taken into account in the proposals detailed in this report.

14. APPENDIX:

None

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Portfolio holder for Engagement and Corporate Services

REPORT NO: PCC 10

DATE: 9th January 2012

TITLE:	Annual Report 2010/11	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	N/A	
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Cllr Paul Carpenter – Engagement and Corporate Services	
CONTACT OFFICER:	Fiona Truman/Deborah Wyles, Communication and Engagement, f.truman@southkesteven.gov.uk and d.wyles@southkesteven.gov.uk 01476 406440/406502 Sue Griffiths, Head of HR and Customer Service, s.griffiths@southkesteven.gov.uk 01476 406104	
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:	Carried out and Referred to in paragraph (7) below	Full impact assessment Required: No
Equality and Diversity		
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via the Your Council and Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Statement of Accounts 2010/11 Performance Management Outturn Report 2010/11	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet approves the 2010/11 annual report.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT/DECISION REQUIRED

This council is committed to ensuring it communicates financial and performance information to residents, partners and stakeholders in an informative and interesting way. To this end we have prepared an annual report for the 2010/11 financial year.

The annual report has been designed to illustrate and communicate our main achievements over the last year, together with our performance in key areas and the

progress we have made towards delivering priorities. It also tells our residents and other key stakeholders how money has been spent and how achievements have been funded.

We have also included a section on the council's vision and the priorities and plans we have to deliver this.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

The report is structured as follows:

- Introduction
- Contents
- Facts and figures about our district
- Making a difference – our highlights over the last 12 months – these include helping businesses network through our B2B events, providing laptops to entrepreneurs starting out in business, encouraging school children to recycle, and engaging with local communities through community events.
- Making a difference – our performance – projects we have undertaken to help deliver our priorities, the progress that has been made and the next steps we need to take
- Balancing the books - a summary of the accounts for 2010/11 and how public money has been used to provide services
- Our vision
- Looking to the future – our priorities

A copy has been attached for your information.

In order to ensure the costs associated with the production of the report are kept to a minimum, it is proposed that its availability for download from the council's website should be widely promoted. This can be achieved through a press release, a small article in the next issue of SKtoday and also by giving it prominence on the Council's website.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None identified

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Preparation of the annual report has been met from existing resources. Electronic copies of the report will be made available to customers and the number of hard copy versions will be reduced in order to keep costs to a minimum.

6. RISK AND MITIGATION

None identified.

7. ISSUES ARISING FROM EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Annual Report will be made available in a range of formats and languages upon request.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

None identified

9. COMMENTS OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

The annual report demonstrates to all stakeholders how the Council has used its resources to support the delivery of its services and from governance perspective shows the Council's accountability to the taxpayer. All costs associated with the production of the report have been met from internal resources only and within available budgets. Further savings will be made from promoting the availability of the report on the Council's website and ensuring printed copies are kept to a minimum.

10. COMMENTS OF DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES

The Corporate Plan was produced for the 3 year period from 2009 to 2012. This report looks back over the last year relating to delivery of that plan. Although there is no specified form for the report, it relates to the Corporate Plan and is recognised as a requirement for good corporate governance.

11. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICES

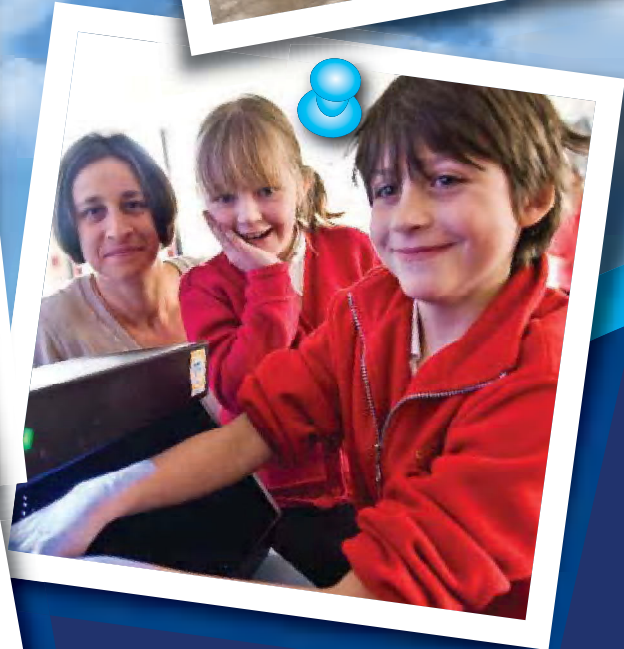
None

12. APPENDICES:

Annual Report 2010/11



your council working for you



Annual Report 2010/11



Introduction

Welcome to our Annual Report 2010/2011

The last year has been a testing time for everyone. Our residents and businesses have felt the pinch of the global recession and we have faced the challenge of providing our services with less money.

Despite a large cut in grant from central government we have been working hard behind the scenes to minimise the impact on local people through a carefully managed programme of spending reduction.

We have made substantial changes to the way we operate, streamlining management and "back office" costs, as well as delivering services differently. This has included joining up with other councils to share management expertise.

This annual report gives us the chance to share with you our progress over the last 12 months and report back on some of the milestones we have achieved. It also contains our plans for 2011/12 and some of the challenges we'll face with our partners in the year ahead.

We have stood by our commitment to bring value for money, quality public services, and to prioritise the things that residents value most.

Last summer we consulted residents about where they would be prepared to see service changes or increased charges in the future through a series of workshops and face to face interviews and they told us quite clearly what was most important to them. We have taken this feedback onboard when formulating our plans.

The "Cleaner, Greener, Safer" campaign came out a clear priority. Our residents told us they would support a reduction in green waste collections in winter which allowed us to divert resources to highway verge clearance and increased town centre street cleaning and litter picking.

The regeneration of our towns continues to be an important focus for us. Over £2.3 million has been allocated to the redevelopment of a key area of Bourne and a further £4 million to Grantham Growth projects.

We have also been working with partners to find new land and premises to meet current and new business needs and have invested money in a new shop front scheme which helps businesses give their shops a make-over.

Young apprentices in construction, plumbing, engineering and hairdressing were given the tools of their trade for the second year running and over 70 local businesses signed up for SKDC's business event of the year B2B.

Looking forward we will be concentrating on providing our residents with the things that matter most from emptying dustbins to cutting grass, providing healthy activities to well maintained parks and open spaces, and regenerating our towns so they remain places which people want to live in and visit.

We hope that you find this document useful and interesting and if you have any ideas of how we can improve your council and the services we provide, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Beverly Agass
Chief Executive

Linda Neal
Council Leader

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04	_____
07	_____
11	_____
15	_____
16	_____





Facts and figures about South Kesteven

- The district covers 943 square kilometres making it the 31st largest in England
- Two thirds of its 131,200 population live in one of the four market towns and the remaining one third live in one of over 80 villages in the area
- The population is projected to increase to 151,000 by 2021
- The second most common language spoken in South Kesteven is Polish, and this reflects the largest proportion of the ethnic minority community
- Grantham is the largest town with about 16,000 dwellings followed by Stamford with about 9,000
- Schools are a big draw with 84.1% of pupils achieving 5+ GCSE's A*-C. This is higher than the England average of 75.3%
- It has close-knit communities and is set in impressive scenery
- The district is made up of historic houses and castles, riverside walks, and a strong agricultural presence

Did you know that South Kesteven.....

- Is one of the fastest growing districts in the UK
- Has been awarded Growth Point status to turn Grantham into a bigger, better and balanced town
- Has one of the lowest council tax rates in England
- Is a district where 83% of residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live
- Is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together
- Has the latest business and innovation centre which houses 36 managed workshop units
- In Stamford has what has been described as "the most beautiful" and "the finest" stone town in England
- Is home to over 8,000 businesses

Making a difference..... our highlights!



South Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) took delivery of three new cars for use by its partner organisations, including officers from SKDC. They will be used across the area to promote projects aimed at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour as they are equipped with magnetic removable signage.



Many residents and visitors enjoyed our "Cleaner, Greener, Safer" community events across the district finding out how they could do their bit for the environment.



SKDC's education team leader Gwen Came went back to the classroom to help pupils in Stamford work on their recycling posters.

More highlights



More than 20 local entrepreneurs starting out in business have now received a helping hand through SKDC's laptop recycling scheme.



Students turned litter pickers during Recycling Week when they teamed up with estates supervisor Sandra Mullin to pick up rubbish. They also visited our recycling depot.



More than 400 visitors turned out for our annual B2B event in Grantham for a day of speed networking, business advice, presentations and seminars.



Climate change co-ordinator Michael Rickard handed out over 30 magnifying glasses to a classroom of kids to help them get up close with creatures great and small in the school pond.



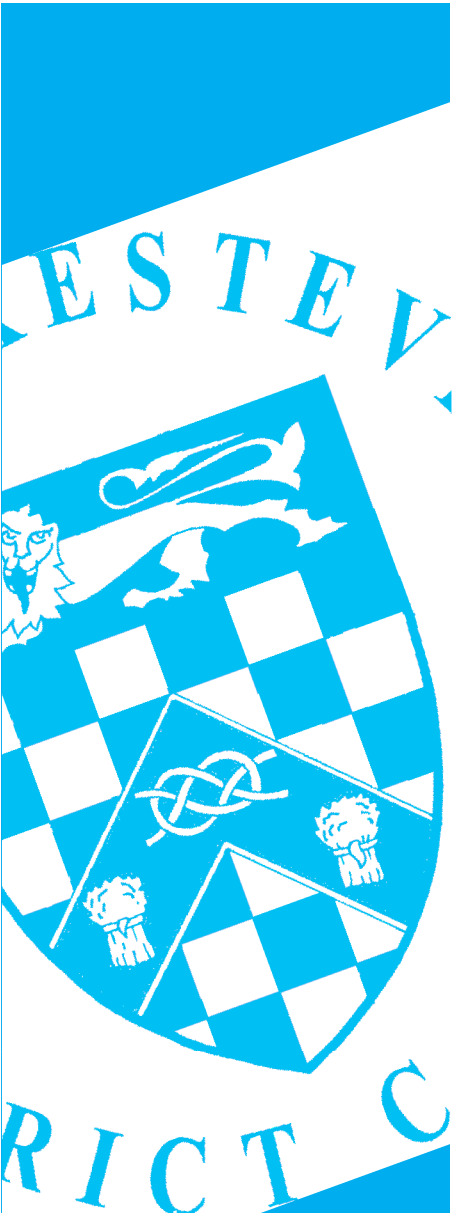
The first tenants moved into our brand new £4.3 million Eventus innovation centre in Market Deeping and the verdict was: "It's great for our businesses!"



Teenagers from across the SK district put councillors on the spot during a Local Democracy Week "Question Time" style event in the main council chamber.



Cabinet member Mike Taylor receives a framed £1 coin from Stamford Mayor David Brailsford to mark the transfer of Stamford Recreation Ground from SKDC to Stamford Town Council.



Making a difference... our performance

We are here to help you in a number of different ways. From emptying your wheelie bins to regenerating your town and village centres. Our focus is to understand what you, our residents value.

That's why we think it is important that we tell you what we have been doing over the last year and how we have performed under our priority themes: Customer First, Quality Living, Good for Business and Quality Organisation.

For each, we have gathered some of our key successes, and also included areas where we can do better.

Customer First

Engaging with You

We have changed the way we consult with residents by getting out and about in the district and talking to people at our Cleaner, Greener, Safer events. Traditional questionnaires also helped us gather views on development ideas, community safety issues and travel patterns.

Getting it right

We surveyed our customers and 85% of them told us we had dealt with their enquiry and got it right first time! On top of that 93% of them were happy with the advice and information provided by our staff. We also showed a 1% improvement on the number of telephone calls we answered. This increased from 95% to 96%.

Working quicker

We have also been working hard over the last couple of years to reduce the time it takes us to process new housing/council tax benefit claims and notification of change of circumstances. These have further reduced from 9.5 days to 7.14 days.

Website a hit

Our website www.southkesteven.gov.uk is a key channel of communication for us which is why we have spent time and energy improving the way it looks and its contents. Our customers certainly think we are going in the right direction because satisfaction with the website has risen from 71% to 75%. We now have 1,000 visits daily.

Continuing to focus on...

Even though we have just fallen short of our target we have seen a significant improvement in the amount of calls answered by SKDC staff within 28 seconds. This has improved from 75% to 84% thanks to targeted training which has meant that calls are answered quicker.

Engaging our customers at the heart of what we do allows us to focus on what really matters to local people and businesses to make sure we provide the things that are important to them.



Quality Living

Waste for recycling

The amount of waste recycled, reused and composted by residents in SK continued to grow (from 50.6% to 51.5%) despite the recession and a concerted effort by manufacturers to reduce packaging. We promoted the importance of recycling through school activities and community events. We also encouraged people to throw less food away through our "Love food hate waste" campaign.

More affordable homes

For the third year in a row we have exceeded our target with 190 affordable new homes built across the district (target 150). Over 540 additional homes were also provided in the district despite current economic conditions.

Safer streets

Joint working between our anti-social behaviour and licensing teams and the police has seen a significant drop in the assault with injury crime rate (5.26 to 3.88 per 1,000 population). Police patrols assisted by SKDC officers, night time wardens, street pastors and door staff all played their part in the fight against crime.

Cleaner streets

Extra street cleaning in our towns has proved a hit with residents and visitors alike – and helped us exceed our 2010/11 target into the bargain.

Continuing to focus on...

We have greatly improved the number of council homes which now reach Decent Homes Standards. The percentage of homes now meeting the standard has increased from 67.1% to 90.3%.



Creating an attractive and sustainable environment for our communities to enjoy, with a street scene that is green, clean, safe and well looked after.

K E S T E V



Good for Business

Working with partners to create an environment where businesses can develop, grow and thrive.

Opening is a big Event-us in Market Deeping

The first tenants moved into Eventus – a new £4.3million business and innovation centre in Market Deeping – and the verdict was: "It's great for our businesses!" SKDC contributed £300,000 towards the scheme which will benefit businesses for many years to come.

Development money for Bourne

Councillors earmarked £2.3 million towards the development of a key town centre location in Bourne. The decision was made after residents and businesses gave their thumbs up to a smaller revised project which will see the area around Wherry's Lane transformed.

New look for shop fronts

Businesses in and around Market Place and Narrow Westgate in Grantham have been offered the chance to spruce up their shop fronts thanks to a pilot scheme which aims to boost the local economy whilst enhancing and retaining the character of the town. The scheme will be rolled out to other towns in the district over the next three years.

Reduced car parking charges

We listened to our local traders and reduced short stay car parking charges back to 2008 levels to help boost the economy in our district. Councillors agreed to amend the charges to encourage more people to visit and stay longer in our towns.

Grantham Festival

A new festival was staged in the town centre around the theme "Grantham Firsts" to coincide with the popular Belton Horse Trials. Visitors and residents alike enjoyed a host of family based activities and local shops were able to showcase their businesses.

Continuing to focus on....

We are investing £4 million across our district to secure new land and premises to meet business demands and will continue to work with companies who wish to invest and bring with them better paid jobs.



An artists impression of Wherry's Mill, Bourne

Quality Organisation

Collection rates on the up

Despite the tough economic climate we have managed to collect 98.26% of council tax – the second best collection figure ever achieved by SKDC. This success was mirrored in both rent and non domestic rate collections.

Talking to residents

We have actively engaged with local people to find out what's important to them and their views have helped shape difficult budget decisions. Feedback is also influencing a review of our Local Forums and is paving the way for better parish council communication.

Saving energy

Great strides have been made in reducing our carbon footprint. Over the last three years we have reduced the amount of energy we use as a council by 13.4% – that means heating, lighting and appliance use in our buildings as well as the fuel used to run our vehicles. We have also reduced the amount of paper we use by 10.3%.

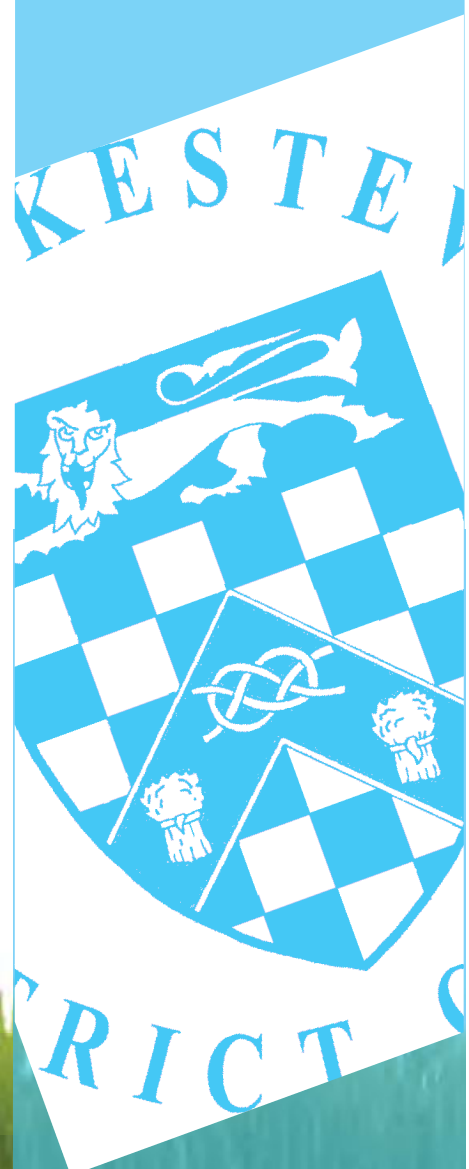
Service with a smile

Making sure our customers receive the right service is vital. Our "All About People" training ensures our staff are able to deal with queries quickly and efficiently to improve the services we provide.

Continuing to focus on...

We will continue to challenge the way we work to achieve value for money across all our services. We will do this by prioritising our resources within tighter budgets and by improving efficiency and productivity.

We deliver quality services and we are an employer of choice



Balancing the Books

This section of the annual report will tell you how we make the most of the money we have, how we balance the books, and tell you about the long term projects we have invested in, all of which are crucially important in these challenging economic times.

Would you like to know how much it cost to provide council services in 2010/11, how much income we received and where we got it from? What about finding out about how much the council is worth, what our reserves are or more about our major investment projects?

If the answer is yes, read on.....

Our summary income and expenditure account for the 2010/11 financial year.

Service area	Net Expenditure £000
Central services to the public – includes collecting council tax and business rates, council tax benefits, elections and land charges	1,081
Cultural, Environmental, Regulatory and Planning services – includes arts and leisure facilities, parks and open spaces, tourism, cemeteries, environmental health, community safety, street cleaning, waste collection and recycling, building and development control, planning policy, economic and community development	12,659
Highways, roads and transport services – includes car parking, bus stations and supported travel	(127)
Housing Services – includes managing council housing, housing benefit, housing policy and homelessness	4,489
Corporate and democratic core – includes corporate management and democratic services	1,809
Non-distributed costs – costs that do not directly relate to the above headings	98
Net Cost of Services	20,009
Net corporate costs – includes interest paid minus interest received, profit from trading activities, capital and pension account adjustments and investment income	3,105
Net Operating Spending	23,114
Amount to be met from government grants and local tax	
General government grants – money provided by central government to help pay for some of the services we provide	(2,057)
Council tax income – our share of council tax collected	(7,577)
Non-domestic rate income – money from the national non domestic rate pool based on a fixed amount per person	(8,860)
Total Income	(18,494)
Net deficit for 2010/11 – the income and expenditure account includes a number of items that result in a deficit. This does not affect council tax or balances.	4,620

The table above is a summary of our income and expenditure account, excluding accounting adjustments. If you would like to see a full version of the council's accounts (which have been audited and approved by the audit commission for the 2010/11 financial year) or would like to know more about the council's finances, please contact the accountancy section on 01476 406208 or email accountancy@southkesteven.gov.uk

The balance sheet for the 2010/2011 financial year

At the end of every financial year, we draw up a balance sheet. This shows you how much our land and buildings are worth, the value of our investments, what we owe to others and what others owe to us, what cash we have and our reserves. It also shows how these are financed.

Balance as at 31st March 2011	£000
Value of land and buildings	232,445
Investments	30,323
Cash and money in our bank accounts	491
Stocks and work in progress	71
Money owed to us	5367
Money we owe	(32,394)
Total assets less liabilities	236,303

Financed by:	
Financial balances for capital spending	(222,370)
Revaluation reserve	(3,060)
Pensions reserve* (our share of the Lincolnshire County Council Pension Fund)	22,549
Reserves available to cover future spending for specific purposes	(22,851)
Working balances	(10,571)
Total	(236,303)

* This includes our pension liability of £23 million as at 31st March 2011, valued in line with general accountancy practice.

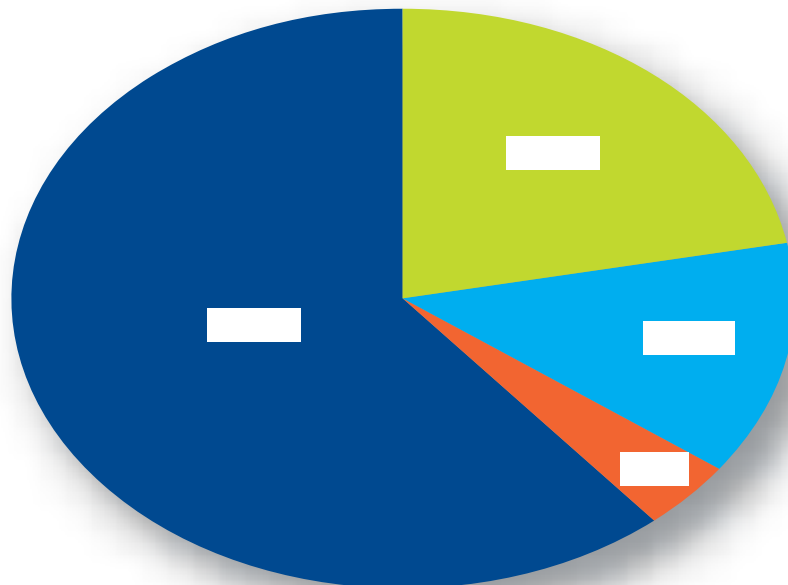
Spending on major investment projects during the 2010/11 financial year

As well as spending money providing services day to day we also spend money on major investment projects. This type of expenditure is called capital spending as it tends to relate to the acquisition, creation or enhancement of assets that we have. In 2010/11 we spent just over £6.1 million, as shown below.

- £335,000 on various energy saving initiatives including ground source heat pumps and voltage optimisers for council offices, arts and leisure centres.
- £416,000 on Bourne Core Area (purchasing property to facilitate the first stage of the re-development of the Wherry's Lane area in Bourne town centre).
- £4,685,000 on improvements to our council housing stock –including new kitchens and bathrooms, rewiring and disabled adaptations.
- £707,000 on home improvement grants.

These projects were funded from a mixture of government grants, capital receipts, a major repairs reserve and a capital reserve, as shown in the pie chart below.

How capital projects were funded



- government grants
- capital receipts
- major repairs reserve
- capital reserve

Key measures of our financial performance

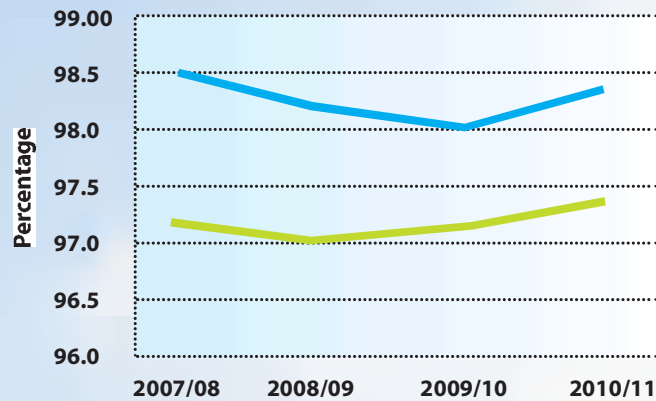
Collection of Council Tax



We collected over £ 57.4 million of council tax in 2010/11 (98.3% of council tax due).

This is important, and not just for us because we don't just collect council tax for our own organisation, we collect it for Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire Police and parish and town councils in the district as well.

Our performance over the last few years, together with national averages is shown in the graph below.

A graph showing the % of council tax collected



-  % of council tax we collected
-  % of council tax collected nationally



Our vision for South Kesteven 2021

**Vibrant communities where people
want to live, work and invest**
(Healthier, wealthier, happier, safer people)

To achieve this vision we will ensure that:

- Our four towns are focal points for local communities
- Our town centres are attractive and welcoming places to visit
- Our shops offer something for everyone
- Improved transport links mean better access
- Our district is the place where companies want to do business
- High speed broadband is available to all
- Everyone works together for the benefit of local people
- Good quality housing helps the population grow
- Our residents enjoy healthy and more active lifestyles
- We provide affordable and energy efficient homes



Looking to the future

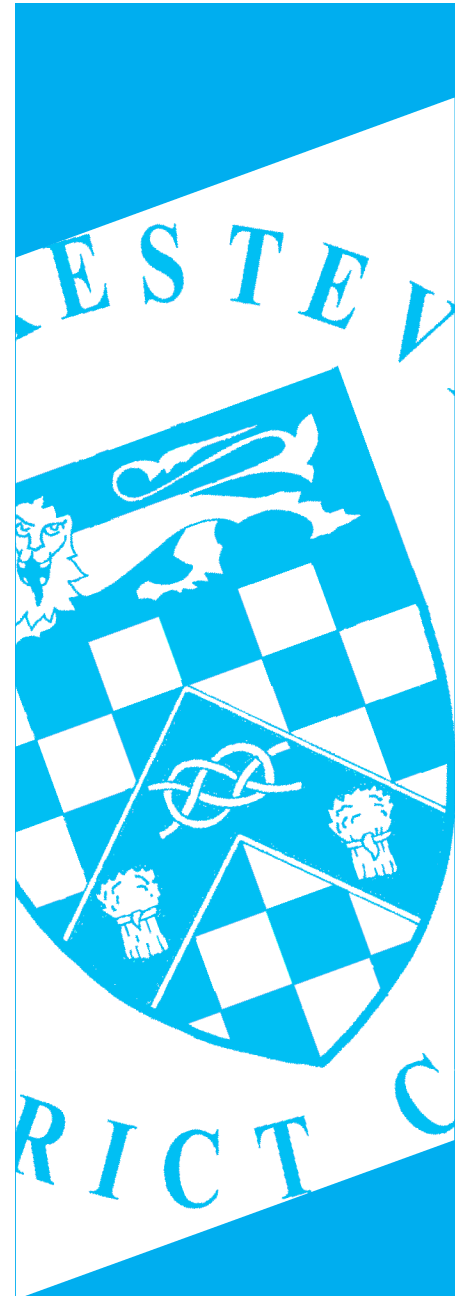
We are living in challenging times. Like many of our residents, the council's income has reduced and we are having to react to a greater demand for our services by providing more with less money.

To help us respond to the needs of our community we have been working hard behind the scenes on a new priorities and actions that we want to achieve over the next four years and beyond based on a realistic balance of what we would like to do and what we can afford to do.

With members we have looked a whole host of information to give us a full picture of the people who live in our district and we have also been out in our towns talking to residents about what matters most to them.

Top of the things they would like to see us focus on is creating jobs for local people closely followed by improving shopping facilities in our town centres. These have changed since 2009 when level of crime and health services were considered more important.

Looking forward our vision will guide and develop our services. We have refreshed and refined our priorities (as shown in the diagram below) to ensure that we create the right environment for the people of South Kesteven.



Creating the environment to....

Grow the economy

The economic prosperity of the district are driven by national factors, but there are key things that we can do to help.

- Support and facilitate business growth
- Enable the delivery of an attractive retail and leisure offer
- Be a council that is easy to do business with and look to say 'yes' whenever we can
- Promote infrastructure to support growth
- Encourage the provision of higher paid jobs
- Be somewhere that businesses want to invest

Keep SK clean, green and healthy

We know the services the public value most – refuse collection, street cleaning, recycling, green spaces – so we will continue to invest in them to make sure they are both high quality and low cost

- Provide and develop our parks and open spaces
- Maintain a clean and attractive street scene
- Sustain high levels of recycling
- Reduce our carbon footprint whenever and wherever we can
- Encourage active and healthy lifestyle

Promote leisure, arts and culture

People are living longer than ever before so we need to provide services which help people stay fit and healthy

- Support and develop a diverse economy – daytime and evening
- Enable access to a balanced culture and arts programme
- Promote our heritage and tourism offer
- Maintain wide ranging leisure opportunities

Support good housing for all

Demand for housing in South Kesteven continues to grow. We must move with the times and ensure that future development benefits local communities and improves the quality of the environment

- Ensure the mixture of housing on offer represents local needs
- Maximise the development of lifetime homes
- Support the creation of neighbourhoods and cohesive communities
- Work to reduce fuel poverty

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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